

STATE OF MONTANA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
W. F. COGSWELL, M. D., SECRETARY

HEALTH REVIEW

June 15, 1927.

INDIAN BIRTH AND DEATH RATES. The vital statistics division of the State Board of Health, has prepared from the records in the office, the following information relative to the birth and death rates amongst the Indians during the years 1925 and 1926:

In 1925 there were 341 pulmonary tuberculosis deaths reported to the State Board of Health. Of this number 81, or 23.8%, were Indians. In 1926 (last year) 316 pulmonary tuberculosis deaths were reported, of which 79, or exactly 25%, were Indians. The total pulmonary tuberculosis death rate for Montana in 1925 was 62.1 per 100,000 population, and in 1926 it was 57.6. Using the latest available figures giving us an Indian population of 13,273, the pulmonary tuberculosis death rate for Indians in 1925 was 610.3 per 100,000 Indians, and in 1926 it was 595.2, and for the population exclusive of Indians, the rate for pulmonary tuberculosis in 1925 was 48.6 and in 1926 it was 44.3 per 100,000 of population.

The death rate among the Indians from this disease in 1925 was 12.5 times, and in 1926 was 13.4 times, greater than among the rest of the population.

The total Indian births reported in 1925 were 466 and in 1926 were 453, while the deaths were 331 and 347 respectively for those years, the birth and death rates for Indians for those years being 35.1 and 34.1 for births, and 24.9 and 26.1 for deaths. For comparison the total birth and death rates for the State in 1925 and 1926 were: births 19.3 and 18.2; deaths 9.6 and 9.7. This shows that the Indian birth rate is 1.9, or almost twice as high as the general rate, and that the death rate is 2.6 times higher. The Indians had the highest infant mortality rate in 1925, it being 165.2 per 1,000 births compared to 64.6 per 1,000 among the whites. The birth-death ratio among the Indians is about 4 births to 3 deaths, and in the whole population it amounts to 2 births to 1 death.

SURVEY OF INDIAN AFFAIRS. The Institute for Government Research is making a survey of Indian affairs throughout the United States. This Institute is composed of ten men, specialists in different lines of work. Our information is that this Institute will report its findings to Secretary of the Interior, Dr. Work, on November 1, 1927, after one year's study. The whole problem of handling the Indians is being studied and recommendations will probably be made to Congress for the better handling of the Indian problem.

Dr. H. R. Edwards, Secretary of the National Tuberculosis Association, has been released for one year by the Association, to study the tuberculosis problem amongst the Indians. He has just recently finished a survey on the different reservations in Montana.

The figures quoted above show rather a serious tuberculosis situation in this State. We shall await with interest the recommendations of the Institute for the solution of the tuberculosis problem amongst the Indians in Montana.

CURRENT DISEASE STATISTICS.

	Reported for weeks ending	
	June 4,	June 11,
Tuberculosis,	3	0
Typhoid fever,	1	2
Smallpox,	8	14
Diphtheria,	3	0
Scarlet fever,	43	17
Measles,	16	16
Whooping cough,	4	5
Chickenpox,	25	13
Epidemic cerebro spinal meningitis,	1	2
Spotted Fever,	7	2
Other diseases,	22	7

WFC/JB

W. F. COGSWELL,  
Secretary.



